

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: BOTSWANA COMPLAINT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DECEMBER 22 LETTER FROM
BOTSWANA PERM REP TO SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT,
CIRCULATED AS SC DOCUMENT. WE STILL HAVE NO FURTHER
INFORMATION REGARDING TIMING OF SC MEETING
CONCERNING COMPLAINT, BEYOND ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL
NOT BE DURING DECEMBER.

UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY GOVERNMENT, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO
BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
THROUGH YOU, THE SERIOUS ACTS OF AGGRESSION, THE MOST RECENT OF
WHICH OCCURRED BETWEEN 17 AND 19 DECEMBER 1976, AGAINST MY
COUNTRY - BOTSWANA - COMMITTED BY THE ILLEGAL WHITE MINORITY
REGIME IN THE BRITISH COLONY OF SOUTHER RHODESIA.

AS A RESULT OF THESE ACTS OF AGGRESSION, TENSION BETWEEN
BOTSWANA AND THE ILLEGAL WHITE MINORITY REGIME IN THE COLONY OF
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SOUTHERN RHODESIA HAS BEEN MOUNTING STEADILY. IN RECENT
MONTHS AND WEEKS, AND AS A RESULT OF THE INTENSIFIED GALLENT
STRUGGLE BEING WAGES BY THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE FOR THE
LIBERATION OF THEIR COUNTRY, THE ILLEGAL WHITE MINORITY REGIME
IN THE COLONY OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA HAS STEEPED UP ACTS
OF SUBVERSION, MURDER, ARSON AND KIDNAPPING AGAINST BOTSWANA UNDER

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN PARTICULAR ARE COMMITTED TO THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA, THE ILLEGAL IAN SMITH REGIME MEANWHILE IS CONTINUING THROUGH ARMED AGGRESSION TO HARASS AND BLACKMAIL THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA IN TOTAL DEFIANCE OF THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL, INTO ABANDONING THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBAWE. THESE ACTS CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MY COUNTRY.

IN THIS REGARD, I WISH ALSO TO REINSERT THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE HONOURABLE DR. Q. K. L. MASURE, VICE PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA, IN THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT ON 17 DECEMBER 1976:

"IT IS MY SAD DUTY TO INFORM THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE ABOUT THE DETERIORATING SITUATION ON OUR BORDER WITH RHODESIA. SINCE 27 DECEMBER 1966 THIRTY-ONE VIOLATIONS OF OUR TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY BY MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES HAVE COME TO OUR NOTICE. THERE HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN MANY MORE WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REPORTED TO GOVERNMENT. TWELVE OUT OF THE THIRTY-ONE VIOLATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE THIS YEAR AND THEY ARE ALSO BECOMING FAR MORE SERIOUS. THEY INCLUDE MURDER, ARSON, KIDNAPPING AND DESTRUCTION OF DWELLING HOUSES WITH EXPLOSIVES. THEY ARE NO LONGER DIRECTED ONLY AT REFUGEES FROM RHODESIA WHO HAVE BEEN GRANTED REFUGE IN BOTSWANA BUT THE RECENT VICTIMS INCLUDE BOTSWANA.

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE POLICY OF GOVERNMENT TO GRANT ASYLUM TO GENUINE POLITICAL REFUGEES FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. IT HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ALSO ALWAYS BEEN OUR POLICY NOT TO PERMIT BOTSWANA TO BE USED AS A LAUNCHING PAD FOR ATTACKS AGAINST NEIGHBOURING STATES. THERE ARE NO BASES IN BOTSWANA FROM WHICH FREEDOM FIGHTERS LAUNCH ATTACKS NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. YET THE SMITH REGIME HAS GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT BOTSWANA HAS PERMITTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH BASES.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE SMITH REGIME IS TELLING SUCH OUTRAGEOUS AND DELIBERATE LIES IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY ITS ACTS OF MURDER, ARSON AND KIDNAPPING AGAINST BOTSWANA IN BOTSWANA. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS BRUTAL AND MURDEROUS GANG OF THUGS WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE THE GOVERNMENT OF RHODESIA ARE DETERMINED TO INCREASE THE FREQUENCY AND MAJORITY TO THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST BOTSWANA IN AN ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE US TO THE EXTENT THAT WE DENY REFUGE TO THEIR VICTIMS. THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN.

IT IS TRUE THAT SOME FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE FLED INTO BOTSWANA

FROM RHODESIA AND HAVE SURRENDERED THEMSELVES TO BOTSWANA POLICE.
IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT BOTSWANA REFUSED THE RHODESIAN REQUESTS FOR
THEIR RETURN TO RHODESIA. ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED FROM
BOTSWANA TO OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.

WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE AND I HERE AND NOW INVITE ANYONE
WHO BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE FREEDOM FIGHTERS' BASES IN BOTSWANA
TO COME HERE AND SHOW THEM TO US. ANYONE WHO WISHES TO
ACCEPT THIS INVITATION SHOULD CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
IN GABONRONE.

"WITH LIMITED FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES WE CANNOT
HOPE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SECURITY FORCES TO SAFEGUARD OUR
BORDER WITH RHODESIA AND HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT HAS, THEREFORE,
DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD APPEAL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AGAINST THIS AGGRESSION.

"I THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO APPEAL TO THE LEADERS
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IN RHODESIA TO FOREGET THEIR PERSONAL AMBITIONS AND TO BE
SINCERE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THEIR
CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM WHEN THE GEVEVA CONFERENCE RECOVERES. LET
ME ALSO SAY TO SMITH AND HIS ADHERENTS THAT THEY ARE TO BLAME
FOR THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA AND NOT US. THEIR TRANSPARENT
EFFORTS TO FIND SCAPEGOATS IN BOTSWANA WILL NOT FOOL ANYONE.

"WE CONSIDER IT IS VITAL THAT THIS CONFLICT SHOULD BE CANTAINED
AND SHOULD NOT ALLOWED TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE
MUST NOT ALLOW A RACIAL WAR TO ENGULF THE AREA. IT IS CLEAR THAT
SMITH WANTS TO DRAG HIS NEIGHBOUTS INTO HIS WAR. THIS MUST NO BE
ALLOW TO HAPPEN."

IN THE VIEW OF MY GOVERNMENT THESE HOTILE ACTS OF ARMED AGGRESSION
ENDAGER THE SECURITY OF BOTSWANA, AND FURTHER CONTITUTE A
SERIOUS THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. IN THE LIGHT
OF THE FOREGOING, I THEREFORE REQUEST, UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM
MY GOVERNMENT, FOR AN URGENT MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO
CONSIDER THIS SERIOUS SITUATION.

(SIGNED T. D. MOGAMI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTSWANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS UNQUOTE
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